

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-25

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SUBJ: CEAUSESCU RECEIVES AMERICAN YOUNG PEOPLE

1. IN SIMILAR SIX-COLUMN ARTICLES STARTING ON PAGE ONE, SCINTEIA AND ROMANIA LIBERA OF JULY 25 REPORT RECEPTION BY PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU AND WIFE OF 200 YOUNG AMERICANS WHO ARE VISITING ROMANIA UNDER AUSPICES OF AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR NATIONALITIES SERVICE. ACNS PRESIDENT HARRY MORGAN AND MR. AND MRS. JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER IV ACCOMPANIED GROUP.

2. FOLLOWING RATHER EFFUSIVE REMARKS BY MORGAN AND ROCKEFELLER ABOUT EXPERIENCES OF 2,000 YOUNG PEOPLE PARTICIPATING IN PROGRAM THIS YEAR, CEAUSESCU SPOKE ABOUT GOOD STATE OF ROMANIAN-US RELATIONS, MENTIONING 1969 VISIT BY PRESIDENT NIXON HERE AND CEAUSESCU'S OWN SUBSEQUENT TRIP TO US AS IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTING FACTORS. HE FURTHER SAID THAT IN HIS OPINION DIRECT CONTACTS BETWEEN PEOPLE OF ALL CATEGORIES AND ESPECIALLY YOUNG PEOPLE ARE OF GREATEST IMPORTANCE IN BUILDING A BETTER WORLD. CEAUSESCU ALSO STRESSED THE ROLE OF SCIENCE, "ESPECIALLY THE SOCIAL SCIENCES," IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIETY AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT EXCHANGES IN THESE FIELDS WOULD BE CONTINUED AND ENLARGED.

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3. COMMENT: CEAUSECU HAD SIMILAR MEETING WITH ONE OF MORGAN'S AMERICAN YOUTH GROUPS LAST YEAR, ALTHOUGH PUBLICITY THIS YEAR IS MUCH MORE EXTENSIVE. CEAUSESCU'S VERBAL SUPPORT FOR INCREASED EXCHANGES AND HUMAN CONTACTS ELABORATES ON PREVIOUS GOR EFFORTS TO SHOW GREATER RECEPTIVITY THAN OTHER WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES TO WESTERN VIEWS ON FREER MOVEMENT BASKED AT CSCE. THIS APPARENT RECEPTIVITY TO FREER CONTACT HAS BEEN EVIDENT BEFORE CSCE IN SOME OTHER CONTEXTS, ALTHOUGH REGIME WILL UNDOUBTEDLY CONTINUE TO EXERT STRONG CONTROLS OVER SUCH CONTACTS IN PRACTICE BY A VARIETY OF DEVICES. IN ANY EVENT, THE EXTENSIVE FAVORABLE ROMANIAN PRESS COVERAGE OF VISIT BY YOUNG AMERICANS AND WARMTH OF CEAUSESCU REMARKS TOWARDS US MUST BE CONSIDERED PUBLIC RELATIONS PLUS FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW.
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